



Financial Crimes Enforcement Network
U.S. Department of the Treasury

Washington, D.C. 20220

April 15, 2019

Mr. Justin Blinder
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 71046
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Case Numbers: FinCEN 19-112-F
goFOIA 2019-04-019

Dear Mr. Blinder:

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information Act request dated April 1, 2019, addressed to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) FOIA Office, seeking, any and all documents and records related to the purchase, sale, and/or ownership of property by foreign individuals/ organizations through shell companies in the Greater New York area.

The FOIA does not require an agency to interpret a request that does not identify specific records. You should provide sufficient detail when describing the records, you want to help us identify and locate them. Helpful details include: the date, title or name, author, recipient, names of offices, agencies and organizations, subject matter of the record, case number, file designation, or reference number.

FinCEN cannot process a request for “all records” on an individual or for “all communications” between FinCEN and a third party. You should include a date limitation, a particular topic, and if asking for correspondence, the relevant parties’ names and offices, if known. If a request does not provide sufficient descriptive information for us to reasonably ascertain exactly which records you are requesting and where we might locate them, we may not be able to identify the records you seek.

Further, the FOIA does not require agencies to answer questions or interrogatories; analyze and/or interpret documents for a requester; create records; conduct research; initiate investigations; or provide statutes, regulations, publications or other documents that are otherwise made available to the public.

Fees

There are no fees associated with processing this request because the fees incurred do not exceed the minimum threshold necessary for charge.

Administrative Appeal

In the event that you wish to appeal this determination, an administrative appeal may be made in writing to FOIA FinCEN P.O. Box 39 Vienna, VA 22183. Please be sure to clearly mark "FOIA/PA Appeal" on both the letter and envelope. Your appeal **must be submitted within 90 days** from the date of this determination. It should contain your FOIA request number and, to the extent possible, the reasons why you believe the initial determination should be reversed. In addition, the envelope in which the appeal is mailed should be prominently marked "FOIA Appeal." Please note that the determination of the appeal will be administratively final.

Additionally, you have the right to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) which mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5796.

If you have any questions pertaining to your request, please feel free to contact the FOIA Office at email FinCENFOIA@fincen.gov.

Sincerely,



Rosemary Law
FOIA Officer